

limit. The Board, in its discretion, may impose shortened time periods for any actions required or permitted under these rules, necessary to enable the Board to decide the appeal within the 180-day limit, allowing whatever time, up to 30 days, that the Board considers necessary for the preparation of the decision after closing the record and the filing of briefs, if any.

(e) Decisions in appeals considered under the ACCELERATED procedure are rendered by a single Administrative Judge, subject to the concurrence of the Vice-Chair or another assigned Administrative Judge. In the event of an even division on an appeal, the Chair participates in the decision of the appeal. Written decisions of appeals considered under this procedure are short and contain only summary findings of fact and conclusions. In cases where the amount in dispute is \$10,000 or less and there has been a hearing under the ACCELERATED procedure the presiding Administrative Judge may, in his or her discretion, hear closing oral arguments of the parties and then render an oral decision on the appeal. Such decision will include summary findings of fact and conclusions. Whenever such an oral decision is rendered the Board subsequently furnishes the parties with a written transcript of the oral decision for record and payment purposes and to commence the time period for the filing of a motion for reconsideration under Rule 33.

(f) Decisions of the Board under the ACCELERATED procedure are published and have precedential value. Such decisions may be appealed by either party.

6302.11 Submission of appeal without a hearing (Rule 11).

Either party may elect to waive a hearing and to submit its case upon the record before the Board pursuant to Rule 17. Submission of a case without hearing does not relieve a party from the necessity of proving the facts supporting that party's allegation or defenses. Affidavits, depositions, admissions, answers to interrogatories, and stipulations may be employed to supplement other documentary evidence in the Board record. The Board may

permit such submission to be supplemented by oral argument (transcribed if requested) and by briefs in accordance with Rule 26.

6302.12 Regular procedure (Rule 12).

Under the regular procedure the parties are required to file pleadings with the Board (Rule 13). The regular procedure affords the parties an opportunity to make full use of prehearing and discovery procedures. Hearings under the regular procedure are conducted in the same manner as before courts of the United States in non-jury trials.

6302.13 Pleadings (Rule 13).

(a) *Complaint.* Under the regular procedure the appellant, within 30 days after receipt of the appeal file, shall file with the Board an original and two copies of a complaint setting forth simple, concise, and direct statements of each of its claims, alleging the basis, with appropriate reference to contract provisions, for each claim, and the dollar amount claimed. This pleading shall fulfill the generally recognized requirements of a complaint, although no particular form is required. If the complaint is not filed within 30 days and, in the opinion of the Board, the issues before the Board are sufficiently defined, the appellant's claim and notice of appeal may be deemed to be its complaint, and the parties are so notified.

(b) *Answer.* Within 30 days from receipt of said complaint or a Rule 13(a) notice from the Board, the Government shall file with the Board an original and two copies of an answer, setting forth simple, concise, and direct statements of the Government's defense to each claim asserted by appellant. This pleading shall fulfill the generally recognized requirements of an answer and shall set forth any affirmative defenses as appropriate. Should the answer not be filed within 30 days, the Board may, in its discretion, enter a general denial on behalf of the Government, and the parties are so notified.

6302.14 Amendments of pleadings or record (Rule 14).

(a) *Pleadings.* The Board upon its own initiative or upon application by a party may, in its discretion, order a

party to make a more definite statement of the complaint or answer, or to reply to an answer. The application for such an order suspends the time for responsive pleading. The Board may, in its discretion and within the proper scope of the appeal, permit either party to amend its pleadings upon conditions just to both parties.

(b) *Record*. When an issue within the proper scope of the appeal, but not raised by the pleadings, is tried by consent of the parties or by permission of the Board, the issue is treated in all respects as if it had been raised. A motion to amend the pleadings to conform to the proof may be made but is not required. If evidence is objected to at a hearing on the ground that it is not within an issue raised by the pleadings, it may be admitted in evidence, but the objecting party may be granted a continuance if necessary to enable him to meet such evidence.

6302.15 Prehearing briefs (Rule 15).

The Board may, in its discretion, require the parties to submit prehearing briefs in any case in which a hearing has been elected under the regular procedure. (Rule 8(a)(1)). If the Board does not ask for briefs, either party may, upon notice to the other party, furnish a prehearing brief to the Board. In any case where a prehearing brief is submitted, it shall be furnished so as to be received by the Board at least 15 days prior to the date set for hearing, and a copy shall be furnished simultaneously to the other party.

6302.16 Prehearing conference (Rule 16).

(a) Whether the case is to be submitted on the written record or be heard under any hearing procedure, the Board, upon its own initiative or upon the application of any party, may call upon the parties to appear before the Board for a conference to consider:

(1) The simplification, clarification, or severing of the issues;

(2) The possibility of obtaining stipulations, admissions, agreements on documents, understandings on matters already of record, or similar agreements which will avoid unnecessary proof;

(3) The limitation of the number of expert witnesses and the avoidance of similar cumulative evidence;

(4) The possibility of agreement disposing of all or any of the issues in dispute, and

(5) Such other matters as may aid in the disposition of the appeal. The result of the conference is set forth in an appropriate memorandum or order which becomes part of the record.

(b) In addition to the procedures provided in paragraph (a) of this section, the Board may direct any party whose claim is based in whole or in part on books of account or other records to furnish to the other party a statement showing the items and figures intended to be proved, with adequate reference to the books and records from which such figures were taken, and to make all such books and records available for examination by the other party. The Board may also direct any party to whom such a statement of items and figures has been submitted:

(1) To make an examination of such books or records or waive challenge of the accuracy of the statement submitted as reflecting the contents of such books and records; and

(2) To furnish the submitting party a schedule or schedules showing the results of such examination, with specific references to the books and records from which such figures were taken, where the examining party's results and figures are different from those contained in the statement submitted.

6302.17 The record of the appeal (Rule 17).

(a) *Contents*. The record upon which the Board's decision is rendered consists of the appeal file, (Rule 4) and, if filed, the pleadings, prehearing conference memoranda or orders, prehearing briefs, depositions and interrogatories and answers to interrogatories received in evidence, admissions, stipulations, transcripts of hearings, hearing exhibits, post-hearing briefs, and documents which the Board has specifically made a part of the record. The record is available for inspection at the offices of the Board at all reasonable times.

(b) *Time of closing the record*. Except as the Board, in its discretion, may